

## REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action it was again required that the Title be amended. Accordingly, as set forth above the Title has now been revised and is believed to be in good form.

In addition, the claims of the application were again rejected as being obvious in view of the cited Wadsworth patent taken by itself or when combined with one of an assortment of other references. By this response, however, independent Claims 1 and 10 have been revised and are believed to be patentably distinct over all of the cited references for the reasons given below.

As now presented independent Claim 1 requires an image pickup apparatus including photoelectric conversion units, and including a scanning circuit arranged to control independently each of a plurality of transfer transistors. The transistors select signals to be output from a plurality of charge detection circuits to a common output line on the basis of each photoelectric conversion unit. This concept, in particular, is disclosed in Applicant's Specification at page 12, lines 21-27, and it is stressed that this feature of the present invention is not disclosed by the Wadsworth patent which is relied on as the principal rejecting reference.

Instead, the Wadsworth patent discloses shift registers 22 which are driven by a timing signal described in column 4, lines 4-8. As the Examiner states in the Office Action (page 3, lines 9-5 from the bottom), the shift registers are driven to provide a sequential output. That is, the respective shift registers are driven simultaneously to shift signals. The Wadsworth patent therefore fails to disclose the scanning circuit recited in the amended independent Claim 1, which can select an output signal on the basis of each photoelectric conversion unit.

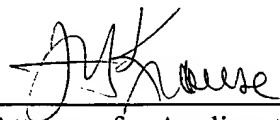
Amended independent Claim 10 now requires that an image pickup apparatus includes a plurality of A/D conversion circuits which are arranged to generate digital signals from the differences between signal levels supplied by the charge detection circuits and noise levels of photoelectric conversion units. This feature of the present invention is also not disclosed in the cited references. As the Examiner states in the office Action, the Wadsworth patent fails to disclose a plurality of A/D converters, and Applicant points out that the Noguchi patent merely discloses an A/D converter, which does not generate the specific signal called for in amended Claim 10.

In summary, the above-mentioned references do not disclose the claimed invention, and Applicant respectfully submits the above-described deficiencies as a rejecting reference of the Wadsworth patent are not overcome by any of the secondary references.

For these reasons it is believed that independent Claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the cited references and a Notice of Allowance is solicited for those claims and for the claims that depend therefrom.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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